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16 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Communist Use of Cambodia to Support the War in South Vietnam

1. The attached memorandum is for your information. It responds to your request of 8 December to the Deputy Director for Intelligence regarding Communist use of Cambodia as a base of support for the war in South Vietnam.

2. The memorandum shows that Cambodia could be of great importance as a base if the Viet Cong could gain the open cooperation of the Cambodian government. Potentially, military supplies could be brought into Sihanoukville in amounts much larger than needed to meet all of the logistic requirements of the VC/PAVN forces and these supplies could be moved through Cambodia to storage bases along the South Vietnamese border. Under these conditions the Viet Cong could also gain a large sanctuary area for military support activities.

3. Clandestine use of Cambodian territory, such as that currently being carried on, is abetted by the inability of the Cambodian government to control its remote border territories. Photography and other sources confirm that some Cambodian territory, particularly in the northeast, is being used for sanctuary and base areas. It is significant, however, that the only known road connections to these areas lead from the Lao corridor and do not connect with the Cambodian transport system.

4. If the Viet Cong were to make maximum clandestine use of Cambodian territory, they would be able to provide substantial support to their war effort in South Vietnam. While supplies from this source probably could not satisfy the current external logistic requirement of 12 tons daily they could provide a very important supplement to the existing system of land and sea infiltration. However, since the capacity of the current supply system through Laos is well in excess of present VC/PAVN requirements, the use of Cambodia as an infiltration route under present conditions is more of a convenience than a necessity.

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[Redacted Signature Box]

Deputy Director
Research and Reports

cc: DDCI

VC Use of Cambodia

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